NASA announces new staffing, recruitment system

A new resume management tool known as NASA STARS (NASA's STaffing And Recruitment System) is coming to JSC in August. By the end of the year, this new program will be implemented at all NASA centers. This new system will improve and streamline NASA's recruiting, selection and promotion procedures.

For current NASA employees, NASA STARS will provide a quick and easy online application process for Competitive Promotion Plan (CPP) announcements. It will also eliminate the need for KSAs (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities) sections and long application forms.

NASA STARS will allow for fast referral of quality candidates directly to management. In addition to these benefits, the new system will give employees an easy to use online Resume Builder. Employees' resumes can then be used to apply for CPP announcements and enhance JSC's ability to identify the skills available in our current workforce.

For external applicants, NASA STARS will change how they apply for jobs, how referral lists are provided to managers and how our Human Resources Office accomplishes recruiting and staffing.

JSC employees can expect to receive additional information regarding NASA STARS in their mail and in upcoming editions of the Roundup. In early August, the Human Resources Office will conduct several briefing sessions in the Building 30 Auditorium on the following dates.

Aug. 6, 2001 (Monday)
10:30-11:30 a.m.
and 3-4 p.m.
Aug. 9, 2001 (Thursday)
10:30-11:30 a.m.
and 2-3 p.m.

EXPERIMENT CORNER

Expedition II Science Experiments

Interactions - Destiny Lab
Dr. Nick Kanas, VA Medical Center, San Francisco

A questionnaire on a laptop computer that the crew and members of their ground support team complete once a week. The data are being used to examine issues involving tension, cohesion and leadership roles in both the crew and their ground support team. Delivered during STS-102/5A.1 in March 2001. Also flown on Mir.

More Interactions info:
Expedition Two press kit, p. 18

http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/science/experiments/hlf_inter.html

MACE-II - Middeck Active Control Experiment - Unity Node
Dr. Keith Denoyer, Air Force Research Lab, Albuquerque, N.M. and Dr. David Miller, MIT, Cambridge, Mass.

The MACE-II experiment is key to learning more about how things move and vibrate in space, and how to sense and control those vibrations. Structures in space, such as telescopes and robotic arms, are sensitive to vibrations and can be ruined because of them. Yet this can't be tested on Earth because the same structures behave differently on Earth than in space due to the Earth's gravitational field. The six-foot-long instrumented truss that the astronauts will work with allows engineers to test their techniques for predicting motion and controlling it. The MACE flew previously on STS-67.

More MACEII info:

http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/tt/2000/sep13/mace.html

MAMS - Microgravity Acceleration Measurement System - Express Rack 1
Richard DeLombard, Glenn Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio

Measures very small changes in the station's velocity that can mimic the effects of gravity. For experiments that are very sensitive to small movements, such as crystal growth, it is important to understand how often such effects occur and how large they are. Delivered aboard EXPRESS Rack 1 during STS-100/6A in April 2001. Flown on numerous shuttle flights.

More MAMS info:
Expedition Two press kit, p. 24

PCG - STES - Protein Crystal Growth - Single-locker Thermal Enclosure System Express Rack 1
Dr. Dan Carter, New Century Pharmaceuticals, Huntsville, Ala.

Uses the microgravity environment aboard the space station to grow large, high-quality protein crystals that will be returned to Earth for study. Delivered during STS-100/6A in April 2001. Previously flown on numerous Shuttle flights.

More PCG-STES info:

http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/science/experiments/stes_pcam.html

http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/science/experiments/stes_pcam2.html

Phantom Torso - Destiny Lab
Dr. Gautam Badhwar, JSC

Will measure the effects of radiation on organs inside the body by using a torso that is similar to those used to train radiologists on Earth. The torso is equivalent in height and weight to an average adult male. It contains radiation detectors that will measure, in real-time, how much radiation the brain, thyroid, stomach, colon, and heart and lung area receive on a daily basis. The data will be used to determine how the body reacts to and shields its internal organs from radiation, which will be important for longer duration space flights. Delivered during STS-100/6A in April 2001.

More Phantom Torso info:
Expedition Two press kit, p. 21

http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/science/experiments/ptorso.html

SAMS II - Space Acceleration Measurement System II - Express Racks 1 and 2
Melissa Rogers, National Center for Micro. Res. on Fluids and Combustion, Ohio

Measures small vibrations that may affect nearby experiments. For experiments that are sensitive to small movements, such as crystal growth, it's important to understand how often such effects occur and how large they are. Delivered during STS-100/6A in April 2001. Also flown on Mir and numerous shuttle flights.

More SAMS info:
Expedition Two press kit, p. 23

For more details, please read the Expedition Two press kit at:

http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/crew/exp2/exp2_presskit.pdf

Did You Know?

The International Space Station's newest module, the Joint Airlock Module Quest, officially supported its first Extravehicular Activity on July 21. The last time astronauts conducted EVAs out of two vehicles during the same mission was in 1973 on the Skylab 2 mission.

Continued from Page 1

Station gets doorway

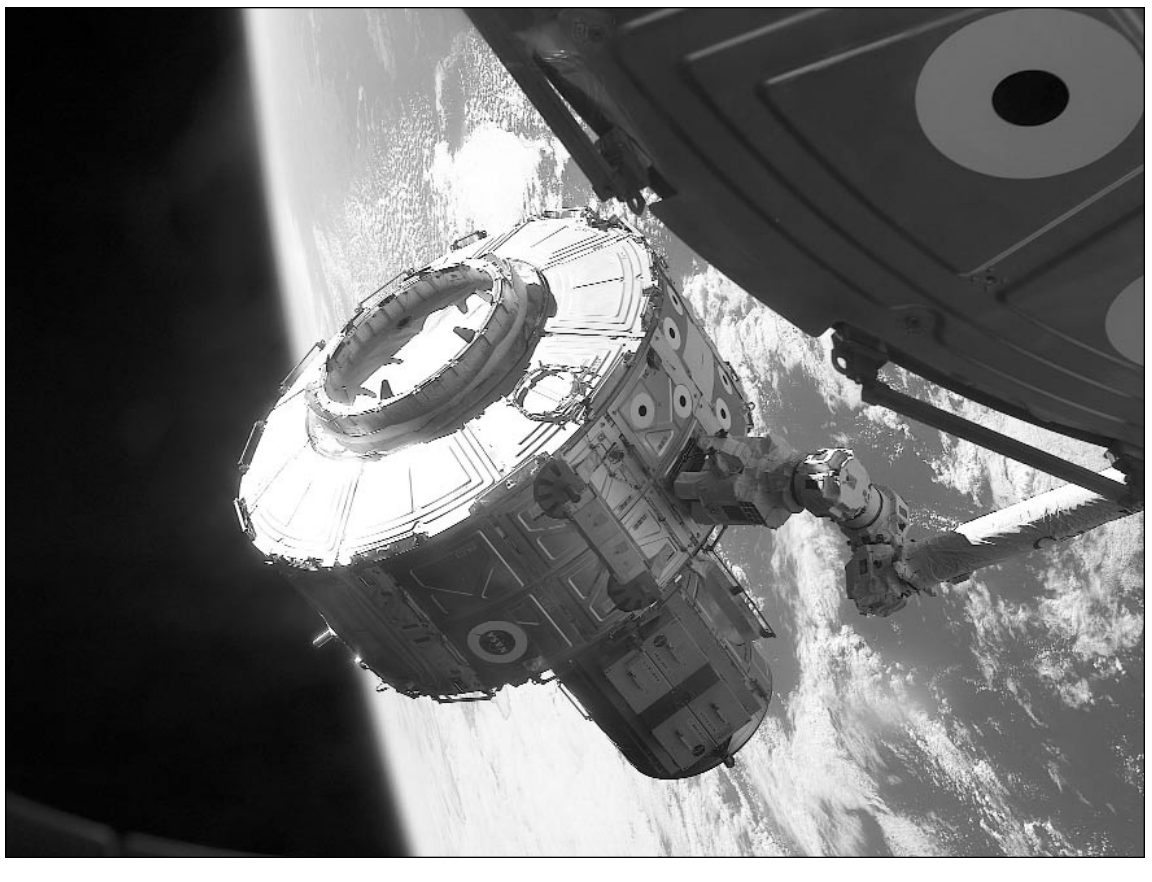
linked together awaiting their first crew. Now the second crew is preparing to return to Earth in August aboard STS-105. They will leave behind a capable and functional station ready for future growth and expansion.

"Looking back it's really been an incredible and really an outstanding year for us in terms of what we've gotten done," ISS program manager Tommy Holloway said. "Overall I think this station is very functional, very capable and modern and very clean. We're well on the way."

Though the ISS is far from finished, it has all of the major components necessary for an orbital research station and is larger than the former Russian space station Mir.

The hefty ISS now weighs in at approximately 260,000 pounds and has about the volume of a three-bedroom home. It features crew living quarters, a fully functional research laboratory, a 58-foot robotic arm, gyroscopes, thrusters, communications equipment, reusable logistics modules and a joint airlock.

"The airlock is a milestone," ISS Deputy Manager for International Relations Robert Cabana said. "It completes the Phase II assembly of the station...We have a fully functional space station up there right now. We've got everything we need to do science in space, to do our spacewalks when required. It's an awesome vehicle." ■



The new Joint Airlock Module Quest now resides in its permanent location on the ISS. It serves as the doorway into space for the ISS crew.